

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A data multiplexing apparatus including a packet number  
obtainment unit for obtaining the total number of packets included  
in one block of a private data packet stream inputted into a channel  
5 buffer and an address obtainment unit for obtaining the address of  
the starting packet in each private data block. The apparatus also  
includes a null packet detection unit for detecting null packets when  
a multiplexed packet stream of data other than the private data is  
outputted from the channel buffer, and includes a packet  
10 replacement unit for replacing the multiplexed null packets detected  
by the null packet detection unit with the private data packets and  
outputting the multiplexed packet stream.